

**South Branch Community Meeting**  
**June 26, 2002 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**South Branch Community Center**

1. Tribal Legislators present: Sylvia Wilber, Gary Besaw and Sarah Skubitz. Also present: Butch Summers and Leon Fowler. Community members present: Edith Peters, Yvette Snow, Margaret Snow, Amanda Johnson, Twila Olson, Marge Teller and Joseph Otradovec.

**Questions for the Police Department:**

4-wheelers have been riding on the roads how far off the roads are they supposed to be? The 4-wheelers are supposed to be 60 feet from the center of the road. But because of the high amount of trees on the sides of the roads, they are told to keep as far off the road as possible. If there is a continuous problem then they will be cited. They are also supposed to be wearing protective gear.

A concern was brought about junk cars. The Legislators told the community members that they were told by the Chief of Police that the Peters' family was supposed to be running a junk yard in South Branch. The community members weren't sure if this was open since they heard that the Environmental office hadn't approved his handling of oil leakage, etc.

Another concern was the County officers stopping tribal members. Officer Summers told them that County Officers can stop tribal members and hold them for the Tribal Officers. But that they don't usually stop them unless it's a serious offense.

The Woodland Boys & Girls Club has had problems there. Should they have a security guard or are there more police patrols? The police are dealing with one family with a lot of the problems. Legislator Besaw stated that the club is turning around, different people are running it and we are getting more local families involved.

The community wanted to know if the Highway Shop is moving. Legislator Wilber stated that the Tribe and the County have a task force working on this. There are some problems with the issue and the full Legislature will be looking at it.

Mrs. Snow wanted to know who to call for help with potholes and mowing the grass along side of the highway. She was told to contact either the Highway Department or Community Development. She also had a question about the sales tax issue on the reservation. Legislator Wilber told her that the Tribal Legislature has taken the position that it's not the responsibility of the Tribe to collect the States taxes.

**Questions for the Conservation Department:**

Leon Fowler brought several hand outs regarding their work on the Pecore Creek Trout Stream Improvement Project, a chronic wasting disease handout and the 2001 Menominee White Tailed Deer Management handout.

There was concern by community members about the chronic wasting disease hitting the white tailed deer population. Mr. Fowler stated that the disease has been found only in the southern part of the state and people should not be concerned about the deer population on the reservation. One issue was using the brain to tan deer hides. As long as the deer is not infected there is no problem.

There is a Turkey hunting season in the spring and fall. Tribal members do need a tag and must register their turkey.

At the last South Branch Community Meeting there was a question about Weso Lake, that the water was stagnant. Mr. Fowler stated that they would have to go and check the lake. There is always a problem, with beaver dams.

Mrs. Snow wanted information on how to get help with recreation equipment for the community center and also for cutting underbrush around the center. Mr. Summers told her that she should check on community service people from the Tribal Courts to help with work.

There was a question regarding the Transportation Department. Do they have a policy on where they will go and how much it costs? One person needed a ride from Suring to South Branch and was told from Transportation that they couldn't do that.

A Housing tenant reported cash income to Housing and was told not to worry about it because the Housing department couldn't prove his income if he was getting paid in cash.

Off-reservation gaming: Legislator Wilber stated that we are still looking into some possibilities.

The Robinson family inheritance: the family has not made any decisions on asking the Tribe for help yet.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Legislative Staff Services